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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PRESIDENT BUSH'S SPEECH ON CUBA

¶1. On October 25, Chile's conservative, influential newspaper-of-record "El Mercurio" (circ. 129,000) ran an article headlined, "Bush makes unprecedented call on Cuba's military." The article highlights Presidents Bush's call for Cubans to "rise peacefully" against the government of Fidel and Raul Castro, noting that the President then made several announcements "to encourage a true revolution of freedom," namely that the United States would not recognize Raul Castro's regime and would maintain the embargo on the island. Lead quotes: "Cuba will not improve by changing one dictator for another.... The socialist paradise has become a tropical gulag."

¶2. On October 25, conservative, independent "La Tercera" (circ. 101,000) ran an article headlined, "Bush cites Chile as an example for Cuba." It emphasized President Bush's call on the international community to help set up a fund to support a democratic transition in Cuba. It noted his announcement that the United States would maintain the embargo, "until the dictatorship changes." President's Bush's concluding remark, "Viva Cuba Libre," was followed by his explanation that peaceful change can occur peacefully, citing Chile, Spain, and Eastern Europe as examples.

URBAN